



## U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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# News Release

## ICE DEPORTS 115 MEXICANS ON WEEKLY GOVERNMENT FLIGHT

*One of those deported includes a man convicted of a hit and run fatality*

CHICAGO—A man who illegally fled a car crash scene in which his 16-year-old female passenger was killed was one of 115 Mexican nationals deported Friday by the Chicago office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).



Galino Hernandez-Ramirez, 22, an illegal alien from Mexico, was driving an SUV vehicle Nov. 3, 2003 in Colby, Wis., when he was involved in an accident with another vehicle. Heather Powell, one of the passengers in Hernandez-Ramirez' SUV, was ejected during the crash and died on the side of the road. Hernandez-Ramirez and a male passenger fled the accident scene on foot, leaving behind Powell's 11-month-old infant in the SUV. Authorities apprehended Hernandez-Ramirez and the other male later the same day.

Hernandez-Ramirez was convicted in April 2004 in Marathon County Circuit Court of a hit and run involving a death, and was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

"Our office ensures that the United States isn't a haven for criminal aliens," said Field Office Director Deborah Achim, who leads ICE's detention and removal efforts in Chicago. "Criminal aliens are not welcome here. ICE works daily to arrest and deport such criminals so that we can make our communities safer." Achim oversees the program for a six-state area including: Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas and Missouri.

These weekly deportations demonstrate ICE's commitment to restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system, which is reflected in a record year of deportations. ICE formally removed more than 160,000 aliens nationally in fiscal year 2004. More than half of those were criminal aliens. The ICE Chicago office deported more than 6,100 aliens last year, a 28-percent increase over the previous year.

ICE effects its deportations aboard both commercial and government aircraft. The government's aircraft is run by the U.S. Marshal Service, and is called the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS). JPATS is one of the largest transporters of prisoners in the world and handles hundreds of requests every day to move prisoners and criminal aliens nationally and internationally. There is an automatic 10-year bar against deported aliens from legally re-entering the U.S.

"Anyone caught in the U.S. by any law enforcement office after having been previously deported will be presented by ICE officers to the U.S. Attorney for prosecution," said Achim. "Reentry after deportation is a felony that carries a possible 20-year prison sentence."

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*